

~~Copy~~

Attached was sent in to Los Angeles Times Syndicate as a guest editorial for Georgie Anne Geyer's column-- you might be on lookout for it in print.

Karen

ce

Sent in on 5 September 1978

American businessman;

a Soviet delegation changes its negotiating goals; a ship carrying illegal narcotics enters U. S. coastal waters. Elements of a LeCarre novel? No. Real life? Yes. Worth knowing? That's up to you.

The American Intelligence Community has been the eyes and ears of the United States overseas for over 30 years. Simple rationale: it is better to know what is happening around us than to be surprised. While originally a reaction to Pearl Harbor, that rationale is even more relevant today. Military parity, economic interdependence, and political activism are today's realities. Freedom, sometimes survival, depends on awareness. Governments, no less than individuals can do a better job if they can anticipate problems and are able to plan ahead. This is neither illegal nor sinister. All nations work hard at being better informed. Unfortunately, in recent years this has become harder for us and easier for our competitors.

The United States is an open society. Foreigners can move freely and unnoticed in our midst. The quantities of published information about everything we do exceeds any individual's capacity to absorb it. The KGB's job is easy.

The CIA's job, collecting information about other countries as well as international activities, is a little more difficult. Terrorists